

The Motor Cycling Club Ltd
MONTHLY NEWS LETTER: APRIL 2010

www.themotorcyclingclub.org.uk

Compiled by John Aley, 20 Old Shipyard Centre, West Bay, Bridport DT6 4HG

Telephone: 01308 420706, Email: johnaley@portwrinkle.fsnet.co.uk

LANDS END TRIAL: The eighty eighth running of this annual event over Easter was not untypical. The weather was cold and wet with a strong wind and near torrential April showers making the sections muddy and difficult. So bad in fact that Cutcliffe Lane had to be cut for outfits and Bluehills, among others, was particularly difficult. Yet many competitors managed to use the rain to advantage by finding grip where the rocks had been washed clean so it looks as though the trophy bill will not be much less than normal. The important thing, judging by early reports, is that as so often happens in difficult conditions, everyone pulled together with even the last competitors finishing before dark looking back on a hard but enjoyable event. Special praise must go to the dedicated band of marshals who as ever stuck to their posts but black marks to a couple of drivers who upset residents near the Culbone Inn by loutish driving. There are some interesting pictures from the event on www.retro-speed.co.uk

KEN HOBBS MEMORIAL SEAT In contrast to much of the weekend, Easter Sunday brought sunshine to the area around Sutcombe where Ken Hobbs, a man long associated with motor sport, the MCC, the Lands End Trial and Sutcombe Hill in particular, had a new seat dedicated to his memory. With said seat blest by the local vicar and with some apt words from John West, himself Clerk of the Course of the Lands End for many years, ringing in their ears the not surprisingly large crowd of MCC members and friends adjourned to the church for tea. Another of those bitter sweet occasions that not only help relations with a local community on whom the future of our trials depends but marking the MCC itself as something special among motor clubs.

EXETER TRIAL CENTENARY: Unless you have been living on Mars for the last six months you will know that we are organising a special event at the end of May to celebrate the Centenary of the Exeter Trial. Starting and finishing at the Gipsy Hill Hotel in Exeter the route visits many hills that have been used in the trial during the past century but avoids any which are unsurfaced or generally unsuited to road going vehicles. This encourages some older vehicles to appear and in the entry list, which is already over full, are such diverse names as Lagonda and Messerschmitt. Similarly tickets for the Saturday evening supper have also all gone.

We may have been forced to abandon the Exeter proper this year but the Exeter Trial and all that goes with it will not be forgotten.

TESTING TRIAL: Looking rather further ahead to Sunday 11 July, I am glad to be able to report that the Testing Trial will be held again on the same site at Keinton Mandeville as for the last few years. It is a really good site for this somewhat special event that provides a mixture of trialling and speed testing, a balance that has appealed for over 20 years now. Sadly the entry fee will be increased by a couple of quid but with no big fuel costs or insurance to cover this is still a relatively inexpensive way of having an enjoyable day away, testing your skills and meeting friends.

SPECIAL ELIGIBILITY: There have been cases over the years when certain cars have found themselves completely outclassed in the class where technically they should be. Their cases have been given special consideration and a dispensation made for them to run elsewhere. It has come to our notice that all these certificates are now time expired and therefore if owners of these or others who feel their vehicle merits reclassification they must apply for special consideration so their cases can be considered and if appropriate, a suitable certificate issued. The initial application should be made to the club's chief scrutineer, Barrie Kirton via the address on this newsletter.